

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 047449

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING COPENHAGEN 0639 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
EC BRUSSELS NATO DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME THE
HAGUE MAR 8TH.

QUOTE

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 0639

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EEC, XF, DA

SUBJ: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TALKS ABOUT EC-US MISUNDERSTANDING.

SUMMARY. DANISH FONMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MISUNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN US AND NINE OVER DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS.
HE SAYS SCHEEL GAVE IMPRESSION TO OTHER FONMINS THAT
SECRETARY HAD GONE ALONG WITH EC PLAN. HIS TRIP TO SAUDI
ARABIA HAD CONVINCED HIM THERE WAS CHANCE OF ESTABLISHING
PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST THROUGH THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS.
END SUMMARY.

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN GULDBERG MARCH 7 FOR AN
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. THE ISSUE WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY

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PAGE 02 STATE 047449

UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND WAS OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE
EC DECISION TO PROCEED TO TALKS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES.
HE PROFESSED TO BE UNABLE TO SEE HOW THIS MISUNDER-

STANDING HAD ARISEN SINCE HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED AHEAD OF TIME OF THE EC INTENTION. GULDBERG SAID THAT AT THE FONMINS MEETING MARCH 4 SCHEEL HAD STRESSED THE FACT THAT HE HAD ADVISED SECRETARY KISSINGER IN ADVANCE SO THAT NO MISUNDERSTANDING COULD ARISE. GULDBERG SAID THAT HE HAD ASSUMED FROM SCHEEL'S STATEMENTS THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED WITH THE US. IN FACT, IN AN ASIDE TO A COLLEAGUE AT THE TABLE, HE HAD REMARKED THAT HE THOUGHT SCHEEL WAS DWELLING TOO MUCH ON THE POINT. THEREFORE, HE WAS "VERY ASTONISHED AND SORRY" TO LEARN SUBSEQUENTLY THAT SOMETHING HAD "EVIDENTLY GONE WRONG". THE US AND THE NINE CAN DISAGREE, GULDBERG SAID, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE ON THIS SORT OF THING. (COMMENT. I TOOK THIS TO MEAN THAT WE SHOULD SAVE OUR DISAGREEMENT FOR WHAT HE WOULD CONSIDER SUBSTANTATIVE MATTERS.)

2. I INTERRUPTED TO ASK IF THE NINE HAD YET REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE ARABS AS TO WHAT THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE. GULDBERG REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, ADDING THAT SCHEEL WILL NOW CARRY OUT THE APPROACHES TO THE ARABS TELLING THEM THAT THE EC WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS. AFTER THESE APPROACHES HAD BEEN MADE, SCHEEL IS TO REPORT BACK TO THE FONMINS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. IF ALL GOES AS ANTICIPATED, THE SECOND STEP WILL BE JOINT EC-ARAB WORKING GROUPS. EVENTUALLY, AT A THIRD STAGE, THERE MIGHT BE A CONFERENCE OF EC AND ARAB FONMINS. GULDBERG REITERATED THAT "ALL OF US" HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE TEXT OF THE EC POSITION AND OF THE INTENDED STEPS.

3. I POINTED OUT THAT, IF I UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION CORRECTLY, WE WERE NOT DISPUTING THE RIGHT OF THE NINE TO AGREE ON THEIR OWN COURSE BUT, IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND OUR CLOSE RELATIONS, WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 047449

BEFORE THE POSITION OF THE NINE WAS FIRMED UP. GULDBERG SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS POINT, AND WE BOTH AGREED THE THING TO DO NOW WAS TO SEE HOW WE COULD RESTORE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE NINE WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US.

4. GULDBERG'S SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED A POSITIVE REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S BRIEFING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST WEEK HE HAD FOUND GREAT RESPECT FOR THE SECRETARY AND HE HAD RETURNED WITH THE CONVICTION THAT THERE IS A CHANCE OF

ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE AREA THROUGH THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS. IT WILL NEED A GOOD DEAL OF PATIENCE AND THOUGHT. AND TRAVELING I ADDED, TO WHICH HE AGREED.

5. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO KNOW HOW MUCH WEIGHT TO PUT ON GULDBERG'S PROTESTATIONS THAT THE OTHER FONMINS HAD BEEN MISLED BY SCHEEL INTO BELIEVING THAT THE US WAS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH, IF NOT APPROVE, THE EC PLANS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARABS. HE RETURNED TO THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES, ALMOST AS IF TO INDICATE THAT IT WAS SCHEEL'S INEPTNESS WHICH HAD LED TO HIS COLLEAGUES' SURPRISE AT THE AMERICAN REACTION. (I NOTE A SOMEWHAT SIMILAR DUTCH REACTION IN PARA 5 OF THE HAGUE'S 1152-EXDIS) I WAS INTERESTED TO NOTE THAT DURING OUR CONVERSATION GULDBERG DID NOT ONCE MENTION FRANCE OR THE FRENCH; THIS IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HE IS REPUTED TO BE MORE PRO-FRENCH THAN MOST DANES.
CROWE
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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